

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a keratinocyte growth factor fragment, KGF_{des1-23}, or an analog thereof that is composed of a portion of an amino acid sequence of mature, full length keratinocyte growth factor, KGF₁₆₃. The fragment exhibits at least a 2-fold increase in mitogenic activity as compared to a mature, recombinant keratinocyte growth factor, rKGF, but lacks a sequence comprising the first 23 amino acid residues, C-N-D-M-T-P-E-Q-M-A-T-N-V-N-C-S-S-P-E-R-H-T-R- (SEQ ID NO: 2) of the KGF₁₆₃ N-terminus. The present invention also relates to a DNA molecule encoding KGF_{des1-23}, an expression vector and a transformed host containing the DNA molecule, and a method of 5 producing KGF_{des1-23} by culturing the transformed host. The present invention further relates to a conjugate of KGF_{des1-23} and a toxin molecule, and the use thereof for treatment of hyperproliferative disease of the epidermis. Moreover, the present invention relates to a therapeutic composition containing KGF_{des1-23} and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and 10 the use thereof for wound healing purposes.